

RECEIVED
2009 DEC 10 PM 2:16

**SPECIAL CALLED TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and audiotapes may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Public Works and Transportation TEC Staff Coordinator at 214.670.4545. DALLAS, TEXAS

Meeting Date: November 16, 2009 **Start Time:** 9:35 a.m. **Adjournment:** 11:43 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry Allen, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso, and Pauline Medrano

Committee Members Absent:

Ron Natinsky absent on City Business
Vonciel Jones Hill absent on City Business

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for October 26, 2009

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the October 26, 2009 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Hunt

Seconded by: Medrano

Passed unanimously

2. TxDOT Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects

Presenters: P.M. Summer, Senior Transportation Planner, and John Brunk, Program Manager, Sustainable Development and Construction

Mr. Summer provided an overview of the TxDOT Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects that included City projects identified and recommended for submission to TxDOT by the December 11, 2009 deadline, with a final selection of projects by TxDOT anticipated in July 2010.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Allen asked why no projects from District 10 were included in the list of projects. Mr. Brunk stated that there were not currently any bicycle/pedestrian projects in that district that met TxDOT's stated preference for projects that had designs completed, all right-of-way acquired and local funding match available. Mr. Allen requested that the connection between White Rock Trail and the Lake Highlands Town Center be given priority for funding in future calls for projects.

Ms. Davis asked if it was possible to partner with suburban cities when we have projects that are in both communities. Mr. Summer indicated that we have partnered with other cities on projects.

Ms. Davis asked if there was a map of the Santa Fe Trestle Trail described in the presentation. Ms. Jordan confirmed that the Trinity Project office had the plans for that project and that they would be provided to the Committee. Ms. Davis asked about the benefits of the Santa Fe Trestle Trail. Ms. Jordan stated that the Santa Fe Trail provides a vital link from Fair Park to Oak Cliff and that Ms. Davis' district would have an on-street bike route that would go from the heart of her district in South Dallas to the Trinity.

Ms. Davis asked if the White Rock Trail by Parkdale would be included in this call for projects. Ms. Jordan stated that there were various designs being considered for that trail. She indicated that the Trinity Trust would be working on donations and that it would also be a candidate for the next bond program.

Ms. Hunt asked if the City has the funding in hand for the local match and to manage the reimbursement process on these projects. Mr. Brunk indicated that the City would have the needed funding available for the projects.

Ms. Hunt asked how the projects would be prioritized. Mr. Brunk stated that the City was not prioritizing the projects. He indicated that the Regional Transportation Council would be prioritizing projects, but that it was ultimately up to TxDOT and the Texas Transportation Commission to choose the projects for funding.

Ms. Hunt asked about the overall Dallas trail system and how the City was coordinating its development. She asked for a map of the existing and planned trails, and suggested that it would be helpful to see how we were prioritizing trail projects.

Ms. Koop stated that when the City does a bond election, the Councilmember decides on priorities in their district and determines if a trail is to be funded by their district's funds from the Parks Department.

Mr. Atkins asked about the status of a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Five Mile Creek trail. Mr. Jared White, Parks Department, confirmed that the City had received \$1 million from Texas Wildlife for trail improvements from Glendale Park to College Park, as well as park improvements within College Park such as playground equipment replacement and a pavilion.

Mr. Atkins asked if the I-20 Gateway Trail would be a bike trail. Ms. Jordan indicated that the I-20 Gateway project would be a bike/pedestrian trail, but would also provide parking for a separate horse trail. Ms. Jordan said that she would set up a separate meeting with Mr. Atkins to discuss the horse trail.

Ms. Medrano commented that once the projects were ranked by TxDOT that we would be in competition statewide.

Mr. Kadane asked if these projects would continue to be developed even if they were not selected for Enhancement funding. Mr. Bunk stated that the projects would proceed, but that some of them would require supplemental funding to be completed.

A motion was made to endorse the projects recommended for the TxDOT Transportation Enhancement call for projects and to submit the project applications by the December 11, 2010 deadline.

Made by: Atkins

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

3. **Stormwater Fees for Cemeteries**

Presenter: Errick Thompson, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

A briefing was provided to the Committee on stormwater fees for cemeteries which included current cemetery fees, billing and collection issues, and an option that would provide an exemption for cemeteries that meet certain criteria.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that she liked the idea of having exemptions for the abandoned cemeteries.

Ms. Davis indicated that she had a few cemeteries in her district and that the students near Lincoln High School raised money to provide fencing for one of them. Ms. Davis stated that there is a cemetery on Malcolm X Boulevard that was in disrepair, and asked if the money could be provided to assist the owners with repairs. Mr. Thompson stated that the money saved through an exemption could help with repairs but that the owners would not be required to use the funds for repairs or upkeep of the property.

Ms. Davis asked if the money was not used for stormwater fees would it go into a trust account. Mr. Thompson stated that it would be lost revenue for the City. Ms. Davis stated that she would like to see the money go into a trust to help owners who need assistance. She asked about the amount of the average bill. Mr. Thompson stated that the bills ranged from \$5 to \$4,000, and that the average bill was less than \$200. Ms. Davis asked staff to look for a way to provide assistance with the landscaping for abandoned cemeteries. Ms. Jordan said that staff would look into putting together a program to provide assistance for abandoned cemeteries and cemeteries that have fallen into the City's care, and bring it back to Council.

Ms. Jasso asked if the abandoned cemeteries were managed by the Public Works Department. Mr. Thompson stated that nine cemeteries are located in City parks and owned by the City of Dallas, but the bulk of the cemeteries are privately owned and operated. Ms. Jasso indicated that the abandoned cemeteries are a Code enforcement issue and asked staff to get with Code Compliance to address those issues.

Ms. Koop asked if the drainage fee for cemeteries should go into a special fund instead of the stormwater management fund. Ms. Jordan indicated that it would not be a separate fund but a program within Stormwater.

Ms. Koop asked staff to provide a map showing the cemetery locations, including abandoned cemeteries and cemeteries where owners are not able to pay the fees. She also asked staff to develop criteria to identify cemeteries in need of immediate funds.

Mr. Atkins asked how the contingency funds described on page 16 of the presentation were allocated. Mr. Thompson stated that the contingency funds were used for the City's levy maintenance, drainage system maintenance, and for compliance with stormwater regulations.

Mr. Allen stated that he looks forward to a broader discussion of the fees associated with the Stormwater Management Fund.

Ms. Koop thanked Ms. Francis James for attending the briefing. Ms. James requested and was provided a copy of the "Stormwater Fees for Cemeteries" presentation.

No action was taken on this item.

4. **"Contested Streets" Documentary Film**

The Committee viewed the "Contested Streets" documentary that had been suggested by Ms. Hunt at the October 12, 2009 Transportation and Environment Committee meeting.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop mentioned that London's downtown was so congested that they blocked off part of the city so that drivers had to pay a congestion fee to go into the heart of the city. She added that the bus rapid transit described in France was part of DART's plan for Garland Road, and suggested that Mr. Kadane discuss the plans with DART.

Ms. Hunt explained that the film was done in 2006 before New York City began to make changes in their bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. She suggested that the Committee also view a ten-minute film by New York's Transportation Director, who has been proactive in converting vehicular street space into pedestrian spaces and bicycle lanes.

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop

(LB)

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee